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Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · www.nass.usda.gov
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

TENNESSEE WHEAT CROP DOWNGRADED FROM JUNE

NASHVILLE, July 9, 2010 – With harvest just about wrapped up, the effects of the May floods and the hot, dry weather that followed are now visible. According to the National Weather Service, temperatures for the first 26 days of June in Middle Tennessee were the hottest since 1953. This allowed producers to rapidly harvest Tennessee's wheat crop. Based on a recent survey administered by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, the State's 2010 winter wheat yields averaged 52.0 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from earlier expectations in June, but up 1 bushel from a year ago. Producers seeded a total of 280,000 acres last fall, down 35 percent from the previous year. Harvested area for grain, at 190,000, is down 150,000 acres from 2009. Total production is forecast at 9.88 million bushels.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT FROM JUNE

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.51 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but down 1 percent from 2009. The United States yield is forecast at 46.9 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be tied for the third highest yield on record, trailing only 1999 and 2008. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 32.1 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2010 but down 7 percent from last year.

As June began, heading of the winter wheat crop was 84 percent complete, on par with last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in the Pacific Northwest, Montana, and Nebraska, where cool temperatures had slowed crop development. By June 13, harvest was complete on 9 percent of this year's acreage, slightly ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Warm, mostly dry weather prevailed mid-month, promoting rapid heading progress and providing ideal harvesting conditions for much of the major winter wheat-producing regions. By June 27, ninety-six percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage. Producers had harvested 54 percent of this year's crop by July 4, ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. As harvest surpassed the midpoint, 63 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 66 percent on June 6 and 47 percent from the same time last year.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., July 1, 2010 with Comparisons[1]

	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
State	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	390	170	44.0	52.0	17,160	8,840
Georgia	250	145	42.0	40.0	10,500	5,800
Kentucky	390	270	57.0	63.0	22,230	17,010
Mississippi	165	105	50.0	50.0	8,250	5,250
Missouri	730	310	47.0	44.0	34,310	16,640
North Carolina	600	400	49.0	37.0	29,400	14,800
TENNESSEE	**340**	**190**	**51.0**	**52.0**	**17,340**	**9,880**
Virginia	210	180	58.0	54.0	12,180	9,720
United States	34,485	32,085	44.2	46.9	1,522,718	1,505,493

[1] 2010 forecast, 2009 final.